

I moved to Pittsburgh five years ago; this was my first exposure to local FM Low Power radio in the form of WYEP/91.3 FM. Not only is the station supported primarily by donations from its listeners, but the staff and administration is entirely voluntary. WYEP in Pittsburgh has recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, and I believe in part this is attributable to the fact that they do not air commercials, and that they try to appeal to the widest variety of Pittsburghers with programming that appeals equally to families, young professionals, and music aficionados. Furthermore, the radio station also works to sponsor local art events, from popular concerts to small art openings and festivals year round. Over the last 30 years, WYEP has become a force in both keeping alternative arts and music alive in Pittsburgh, as well as, in establishing a sense of community in the city; this surely cannot occur in most cities whose radio market is overly commercial and ridiculously consolidated.

Along with Prometheus Radio, I believe that translators should have a secondary status with regard to locally based Low Power stations if a bonafide local organization wants to use a channel for real, new, local broadcasting, they should not be pre-empted by a repeater. The licensing system as it stands gives preference to remote, out of state organizations looking to rebroadcast on thousands of channels nationwide, rather than to local entities who want just one community radio station. This is an outrage to many citizens who supposedly "own" the airwaves.